



alwalsh@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Oscar 21 Question  
To: ham-space@ucsd.edu

In article <2bbgf4INNfj7@mickey.eng.gulfaero.com>,  
John Gladin <gladin@gulfaero.com> wrote:

>I have just recently started listening in on Oscar21 passes on 145.983  
>MHz. Could someone please explain the 'mode flipping' between QSOs,  
>German, French, etc 'broadcasts', and packet? I'm trying to learn the  
>ropes before attempting contacts and I do intend on reading up on the  
>subject. However, I'm running long on curiosity and short on time for  
>researching my new-found habit.

>  
>Your help is appreciated.

>  
>Regards,  
>John KE4GHE  
>

OSCAR 21 operates in three different modes during each ten minute cycle.  
For the first 6 minutes it operates in mode B (70cm up, 2m down), essentially  
as a repeater. For the next three minutes it broadcasts automated voice  
messages in various languages. The last minute is packet data. When you  
get a chance, check out the excellent QST article on OSCAR 21 in the  
December issue.

-Alan  
KF9KQ

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Date: Fri, 5 Nov 1993 15:56:32 MST  
From: news.service.uci.edu!paris.ics.uci.edu!csulb.edu!library.ucla.edu!  
news.mic.ucla.edu!unixg.ubc.ca!nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!nebulus!ve6mgs!  
usenet@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Two-Line Orbital Element Set Format  
To: ham-space@ucsd.edu

As a service to the satellite user community, the following description of the  
NORAD two-line orbital element set format is uploaded to sci.space.news and  
rec.radio.info on a monthly basis. The most current orbital elements  
from the NORAD two-line element sets are carried on the Celestial BBS, (513)  
427-0674, and are updated daily (when possible). Documentation and tracking  
software are also available on this system. The Celestial BBS may be accessed  
24 hours/day at 300, 1200, 2400, 4800, or 9600 bps using 8 data bits, 1 stop  
bit, no parity. In addition, element sets (also updated daily) and some  
documentation and software are also available via anonymous ftp from  
archive.afit.af.mil (129.92.1.66) in the directory pub/space.

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Data for each satellite consists of three lines in the following format:

AAAAAAAAAAAA

1 NNNNNU NNNNNAAA NNNNN.NNNNNNNNN +.NNNNNNNNN +NNNNN-N +NNNNN-N N NNNNN  
2 NNNNN NNN.NNNN NNN.NNNN NNNNNNN NNN.NNNN NNN.NNNN NN.NNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

Line 0 is a eleven-character name.

Lines 1 and 2 are the standard Two-Line Orbital Element Set Format identical to that used by NORAD and NASA. The format description is:

Line 1

Column	Description
01-01	Line Number of Element Data
03-07	Satellite Number
10-11	International Designator (Last two digits of launch year)
12-14	International Designator (Launch number of the year)
15-17	International Designator (Piece of launch)
19-20	Epoch Year (Last two digits of year)
21-32	Epoch (Julian Day and fractional portion of the day)
34-43	First Time Derivative of the Mean Motion or Ballistic Coefficient (Depending on ephemeris type)
45-52	Second Time Derivative of Mean Motion (decimal point assumed; blank if N/A)
54-61	BSTAR drag term if GP4 general perturbation theory was used. Otherwise, radiation pressure coefficient. (Decimal point assumed)
63-63	Ephemeris type
65-68	Element number
69-69	Check Sum (Modulo 10) (Letters, blanks, periods, plus signs = 0; minus signs = 1)

Line 2

Column	Description
01-01	Line Number of Element Data
03-07	Satellite Number
09-16	Inclination [Degrees]
18-25	Right Ascension of the Ascending Node [Degrees]
27-33	Eccentricity (decimal point assumed)
35-42	Argument of Perigee [Degrees]
44-51	Mean Anomaly [Degrees]
53-63	Mean Motion [Revs per day]
64-68	Revolution number at epoch [Revs]
69-69	Check Sum (Modulo 10)

All other columns are blank or fixed.

Example:

NOAA 6

1	11416U		86	50.28438588	0.00000140		67960-4	0	5293
2	11416	98.5105	69.3305	0012788	63.2828	296.9658	14.24899292346978		

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End of Ham-Space Digest V93 #78

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